

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 13-14 and 16-18 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to file divisional and continuation applications directed to the canceled subject matter.

It is respectfully submitted that the present amendment presents no new issues or new matter and places this case in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is requested.

I. Status of Application

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's statement of the status of application.

II. Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's consideration of the information disclosure statements.

III. The Rejection of Claims 1-12 and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. 103 to Johansen et al.

Claims 1-12 were previously rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as allegedly obvious over Johansen et al. US 6,100,080. The Examiner has withdrawn the rejection of method claims 4-12, but maintains the rejection of claims 1-3, and has now included claims 16-18 in the rejection. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants first acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's statement that claims 4-12 are allowed.

Moreover, solely to expedite prosecution and without acquiescing to the Examiner's rejection, Applicants have canceled herewith claims 1-3 and 16-18, thereby rendering moot the rejection over Johansen et al.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the amended claims overcome the outstanding rejection under 35 USC 103. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

IV. The Rejection of Claims 13-14 under 35 U.S.C. 103 to Johansen et al. in view of Svendsen et al.

Claims 13-14 stand previously rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as allegedly obvious over Johansen et al. US 6,100,080 and further in view of Svendsen et al. US 6,221,821. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Solely to expedite prosecution and without acquiescing to the Examiner's rejection, Applicants have canceled herewith claims 13-14, thereby rendering moot the rejection over Johansen et al. and further in view of Svendsen et al.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the amended claims overcome the outstanding rejection under 35 USC 103. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

V. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 4-12.

VI. Conclusion

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance. Early action to that end is respectfully requested. The Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if there are any questions concerning this amendment or application.

Should any fees be due, please charge deposit account no. 50-1701 of Novozymes North America Inc.

Respectfully submitted,

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